Issue 3/2023

Focus on stamps
The Collector's Magazine

For children who enjoy collecting, writing and doing crafts!

The stamp set for children is available now at **postshop.ch** and at all Swiss Post branches.

Kids' world | postshop.ch

Cover image: The Centovalli railway is one of the ten most spectacular in Europe! Sara Martinovic, an engineer, presents the stamp issued to mark the company's centenary. Behind her is the majestic iron bridge and charming village of Intragna, also featured on the stamp. (info: p. 6 to 7).

Photo: Adrian Brand

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Dear Reader

Stamp collecting has a long tradition all over the world, and Switzerland is no exception, with many dedicated philately fans who indulge in their hobby with passion and expertise.

In this country, stamps have a special significance as part of our cultural heritage. They are a mirror of the development of our postal and communication history and of the cultural richness of our country. They have historical value, depicting events, achievements and figures in Swiss history. In its latest issue, Swiss Post pays tribute to the 175th anniversary of our Federal Constitution and to the Centovalli Railway's centenary.

The future of philately in Switzerland will evolve alongside collectors' changing needs. New formats that go beyond traditional stamp collecting will emerge. These could involve live events exploring the history and meaning of stamps, where philatelists, historians, artists and experts together reveal the importance of stamps as a cultural asset. Another option for the future is digitization. Technologies such as augmented or virtual reality could turn stamp collecting into an interactive experience. Whichever way things go, a successful future requires us to give the stamp a greater emotional charge and to gear ourselves towards new habits and behavioural trends, while also remembering that the words once spoken by Swiss artist and stamp designer Donald Friedenreich still hold true: "Stamps are little works of art that tell a story."

Kind regards

Stefan Bühler
Head of Stamps & Philately

PS: Stamps are not only little works of art, they are also records of contemporary events. Their designs reflect the political, cultural and social developments of any given era. Stamps therefore also constitute an important part of our country's cultural heritage.

Issuing programme

Issue date: 9 November 2023 / Featured in: Focus on stamps 4/2023

No.	Value	Description
5	8.20	**Special stamps** Christmas – Snow crystals
	0.90	Snow crystal
	1.10	Christmas tree
	1.80	Village
	2.10	Snowfall
	2.30	Birds
2	3.00	**Special stamps with surcharge** Pro Juventute – Cohesion
	0.90+0.45	Children
	1.10+0.55	Young people
2	2.20	**Special stamps** 100 years Disney
	1.10	Mickey
	1.10	Minnie

No.	Value	Description
1	1.65 1.10+0.55	**Miniature sheet with surcharge** Stamp Day 2023 Eschenbach LU
1	1.10	**Miniature sheet** Typical Swiss countryside – Tectonic Arena Sardona
1	1.20	**Special stamp** Confetti

Subject to change.
As at: June 2023

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They are also available at swisspost.ch/gtc-phila.

Event calendar

Month	Key	Date	Location	Event
September	E	2.9	Sihlpost Zurich, CH	Event in honour of J.R.R. Tolkien
	I	7.9		**Issue date**
	TF/E	8–10.9	Koper, SL	Multilateral Stamp Fair
	E	9.9	Swiss Post branch Lugano 1, CH	Centovalli day
	FoS	28.9		Focus on stamps 4/2023: The Collector's Magazine
October	TF/E	26–28.10	Ulm, DE	International Stamp Show
November	TF/E	8–10.11	Paris, FR	77th Salon Philatélique d'Automne
	I	9.11		**Issue date**
	SS+	16–18.11	Eschenbach (LU), CH	Stamp Day 2023 Eschenbach
December	TF/E	1–3.12	Verona, IT	Veronafil 2023
	SS	7–8.12	Bern-Bethlehem, CH	Christmas branch

The right to make updates and changes is reserved. The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/collecting-stamps.

Find all the events: **swisspost.ch/philately-events**

Key

E	Event
FoS	Focus on stamps (The Collector's Magazine)
I	Issue date for stamps/postal stationery
SS	Sales stand
SS+	Sales stand with cancellation service
TF/E	Trade fair/exhibition

Joint product dedicated to peace

This year's EUROPA stamps are something very special. Each PostEurop member country was invited to submit a design on the theme of peace and to choose three favourites from among all of the entries. The design from Luxembourg received the most votes and was issued as a postage stamp by all affiliated postal organizations in May.

Same design, different stamps: with this folder, you will receive the six stamps featuring the winning design issued by Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Also included are the two additional stamps with their own designs issued by Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Multilateral set			
Joint product	A463 990		26.95
This product is not supplied with the subscription. The joint product is available in German only.			

Scan the stamp with the Post-App to bring it to life!

100 years Centovalli Railway

Tanti auguri! Inaugurated on 25 November 1923, the railway line is celebrating its anniversary. The accompanying special stamp depicts the "Centovallina" with another high flyer: the steel bridge near the village of Intragna, one of the most photographed subjects along the railway line.

Up and down the valleys, the Centovalli Railway has been shuttling between Switzerland and Italy for 100 years now, from Locarno through the Centovalli valley to Domodossola. Decked in white and blue and popular among tourists, this train covers the 52-kilometre route in around two hours.

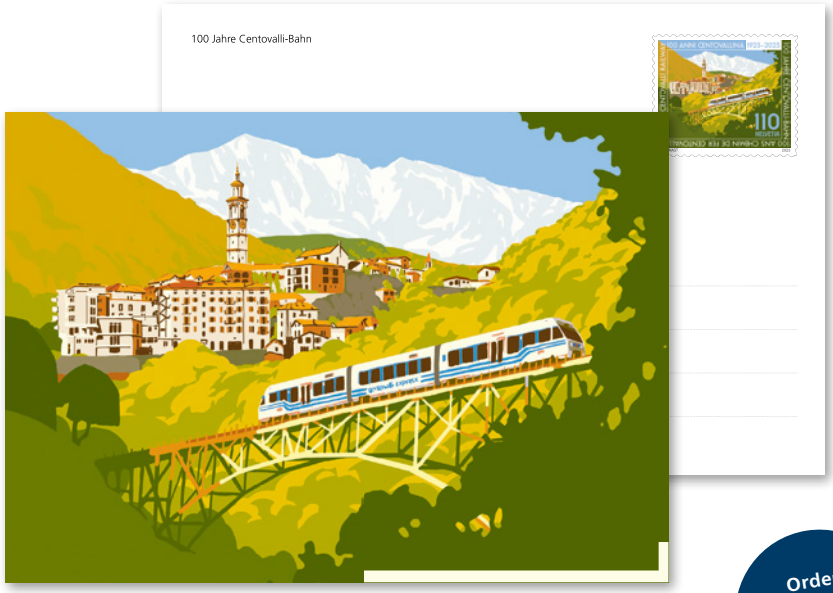
The "Centovallina", as the railway is named in Italian, runs through deep gorges past pretty villages and rushing waterfalls, crossing a total of 83 bridges as it goes. One of these is featured on the gummed special stamp – the "Ponte di ferro" steel bridge over the Isorno mountain torrent. Behind the popular photo subject is the center of Intragna, the valley's principal town, with another eye-catching feature: at 65 metres, the bell tower can take pride in its claim to be the highest church tower in the Canton of Ticino.

The design, in the style of a postcard, is framed by golden lettering, giving expression to the anniversary celebrations. The flow of text bordering the stamp can be read continuously around its length, the words forming a self-contained chain – an abstract symbol of a railway line. With its vintage style, the design also aims to recall the period in which the line was established, which we are reflecting on in the anniversary year, and to prompt feelings of nostalgia. The celebrations start on 25 November and will last for a year. Here's to another 100 years!

Picture postcard

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 5-colour; Cartor Security Printers, Meaucé-La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamp: 33×28 mm Sheet: 194×140 mm (4 rows of 5 stamps)
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼:13½
Design	Nico Kast, St. Gallen



Postal card

A day full of surprises

A day full of surprises awaits you at the Swiss Post branch in Lugano 1 on 9 September. Stay tuned! You can find information on the programme at **swisspost.ch/stamps**

Why not join in?

Scan the stamp with the Post-App now and discover the beautiful Centovalli valley virtually!
Is that not enough? With a little luck, you could win 4 × 4 return tickets in our competition and embark on a real train journey (Locarno to Domodossola or vice versa). Take part until 5 October 2023 at **swisspost.ch/stamps**.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Single stamp	A479 150	A479 550	1.10
Block of four	A479 160	A479 560	4.40
Sheet of 20 stamps	A479 111	A479 511	22.00
Covers			
Single stamp on first-day cover C6		A479 580	2.00
Block of four on first-day cover C6		A479 630	5.40
Unstamped cover C6	A479 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A479 640	A479 650	1.90
Postal stationery			
Pre-franked A6 postal card "100 years Centovalli Railway"	A479 841	A479 846	2.10
Picture postcard			
Unfranked A6 picture postcard "100 years Centovalli Railway"	A479 911		1.00

Plaquette

Seal

Embossed cross

Ornamental button

175 years Federal Constitution

On 12 September 1848, Switzerland became a federal state and the first democracy in Europe. A historic moment, and one that is also fundamental to the history of Swiss Post.

Happy birthday, modern Switzerland! When the Federal Constitution entered into force 175 years ago, the confederation of cantons was transformed into a federal state. At that time, just over two million people lived in Switzerland.

The new document comprising 114 articles was the highest law governing their communal life together. At the federal political level, the parliamentary system with two chambers and direct democracy were introduced. In addition, the cantons also ceded some of their powers to the Confederation. Areas such as customs, railways, currency and telegraphs were centralized and standardized – as were postal services.

From 1849, it was no longer the cantonal postal administrations that were responsible for transporting letters and people, but the Swiss federal postal service. As the first national institution, the service embodied the new state, as its post offices, mail coaches and mail carriers give the state a face.

The designs and photographs featured on the sheet of stamps were created by four members of renowned photo agency Magnum Photos. As part of the multimedia project "Sessions", the international collective captured their perspective on political events during the 2022 summer session, producing the four black and white images taken in and around the Federal Parliament that appear on the sheet of stamps. The four stamp designs feature elements from the original Federal Constitution document, which is kept in the Swiss Federal Archives.

Sheet of 4 stamps

Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 4-colour + silver; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein
Sizes	Stamps: 40×32.5 mm Sheet: 190×160 mm, 2 rows of 2 stamps
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13 ¼ : 13 ½
Design	Photography: Cristina de Middel, Salvador, Brazil Graphical editing: Daniel Peter, Bern

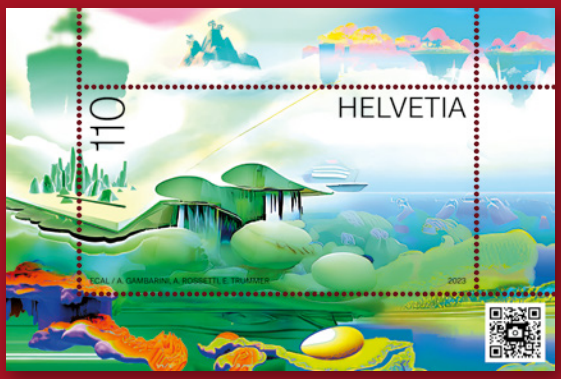
Souvenir picture

Event in Bern on 18 August

As part of the major MAGNUM photo exhibition "Session", and in the presence of President of the National Council Martin Candinas and Thomas Baur, Head of Post CH Network Ltd, Swiss Post's special sheet "175 years Federal Constitution" will officially be presented at 6 p.m. on 18 August at the Kornhausforum venue in Bern. The event is public and free of charge. No registration is necessary..

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A478 150	A478 550	4.40
Sheet of 4 stamps	A478 111	A478 511	4.40
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A478 580	5.30
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A478 600	8.00
Unstamped cover C6	A478 700		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A478 640	A478 650	5.20
Souvenir picture			
Framed sheet of stamps with signature in limited edition	A478 200		140.00
This product is not supplied with the subscription.			



Scan the QR code on the miniature sheet to discover the Instagram video!

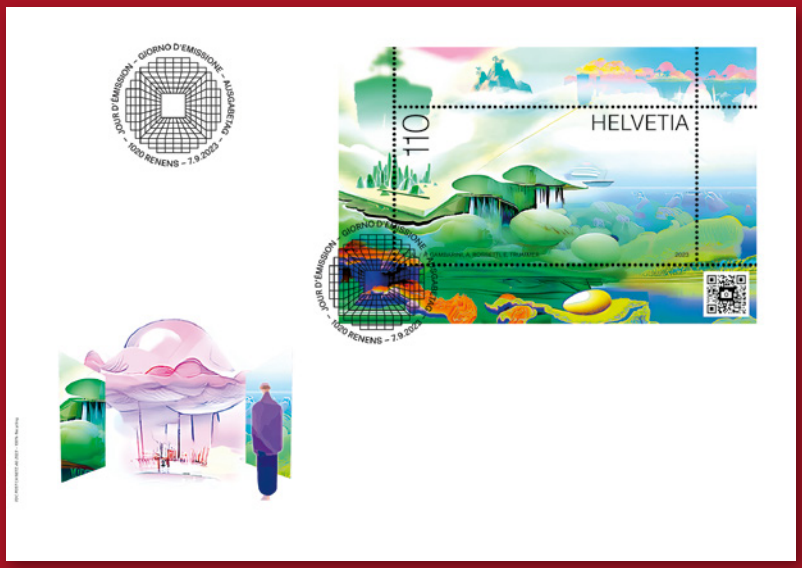
Metascape

Welcome to the Metascape, a virtual landscape created by students at ECAL, the cantonal university of art and design in Lausanne. You can scan the QR code on the miniature sheet to embark on a virtual video journey on Instagram.

Strange, and yet somehow familiar. That's the impression created by the elements on this miniature sheet's design. While familiar features of landscapes can be discerned, such as rocks, bodies of water and vague outlines of vegetation, the overall picture is of a surreal world – named the Metascape. To immerse yourself in this imaginary domain, you can simply scan the QR code. Augmented reality technology will then open up to visitors a fantasy world created by artificial intelligence.

The genesis of the design dates back to the Swiss Post Philately department's visit to ECAL (Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne). Impressed by the students' artistic work, the team quickly decided to offer the young talents a platform – in the form of a stamp. With the exception of the overall theme of "destination", the students were given absolute creative freedom, resulting in a total of 14 projects developed in working groups. A handful were then shortlisted. The winning project won the vote of a jury made up of members representing ECAL, Swiss Post and the stamp commission. And so, when the stamp was created, fantasy became reality.

©ECAL/Marvin Merkel



Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein
Sizes	Stamp: 76 ×40 mm Miniature sheet: 105×70 mm Miniature sheet with a stamp
Paper	White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt-gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	11¾:12
Design	ECAL / A. Gambarini / A. Rossetti / E. Trummer, Renens

Behind the scenes: ECAL students discuss their work

"For this collaboration between Swiss Post and ECAL (the cantonal university of art and design in Lausanne), our goal was to create a stamp on the theme of 'destination'. We began by reflecting on what this theme means to us and concluded that a destination isn't merely an end in itself, but the result of all the journeys and experiences accumulated throughout our lives. We are constantly moving towards new places, and our lives are like an infinite destination with an unknown start and end.

In order to represent the idea of a multitude of different landscapes and horizons, we created an imaginary environment that could symbolize both 'the before' and 'the after' of our journey by combining different aspects of nature. To bring the project to fruition, we turned to various artificial intelligence platforms, using each one for a specific aspect. We enjoyed being able to combine our reflections and creativity with current technological tools in order to breathe life into our ideas."

Alexandre Gambarini (left), Angeline Rossetti (center), Elsa Trummer (right) with their creation.
©ECAL/Marvin Merkel

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Miniature sheet	A474 315	A474 815	1.10
Covers			
Single stamp on first-day cover E6		A474 580	2.10
Unstamped cover C6 (162 × 114 mm) E6 (200 × 140 mm)	 A474 700 A474 701		 0.90 1.00
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A474 640	A474 650	1.90

Trub, Bern

Oeam Village, Asan

Joint issue Switzerland–Republic of Korea

With this joint issue, Switzerland and South Korea are acknowledging two anniversaries at once: 60 years of diplomatic relations and 70 years of Swiss participation in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), based in Panmunjom, Korea.

So far apart and yet so similar: the joint issue designs depict two traditional villages, both nestled in a charming landscape of rolling hills. The historic village of Oeam in mid-western South Korea is situated in the foothills of Seolhwasan mountain, not far from the city of Asan and about 95 kilometres from Seoul. Its houses are traditionally built with thatched and tiled roofs – time-proven techniques still used to this day. The village is home to around 150 people, who continue to live by the traditions of the Joseon, a dynasty that lasted from 1392 to 1910. Their rituals are considered a part of the nation's cultural heritage and have protected status. The Swiss counterpart shows the village of Trub in Upper Emmental in the Canton of Bern.

This is a scattered agricultural settlement that combines typical features of the Emmental valley and is listed in the Federal Inventory of Heritage Sites of national importance. The municipality's highest point is on the Napf mountain, at 1,408 metres above sea level.

The choice of similar designs symbolizes the very good relationship between the two countries, which are celebrating two anniversaries this year. The first is the start of their diplomatic relations 60 years ago, established on the basis of Switzerland's recognition of the Republic of Korea at the end of 1962. The second event goes back a little further: since 27 July 1953 and the signing of the armistice in the Korean War, Switzerland has been part of the NNSC, which was set up to monitor the ceasefire agreement. The Swiss Armed Forces have been contributing to security and stability on the Korean peninsula through an adapted mission for 70 years.

Korean stamps

Trub, Bern

Oeam Village, Asan

Korean sheet of 16 stamps

Set on first-day cover C6, printed with special silver colour

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein
Sizes	Stamps: 40×32.5 mm Sheet: 190×160 mm, 4 rows of 4 stamps
Paper	White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt-gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼:13½
Design	Rolf Siegenthaler, Bern (Trub) Mihwa Kim / Changhwan Kim, Seoul (Oeam)

Items with the Swiss stamps

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A475 150	A475 550	3.40
Set of blocks of four	A475 160	A475 560	13.60
Sheet of 16 stamps 1.10 Trub, Bern 2.30 Oeam Village, Asan	 A475 111 A475 112	 A475 511 A475 512	 17.60 36.80
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A475 580	4.30
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A475 600	5.20
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)		A475 630	15.40
Unstamped cover C6 (162 × 114 mm) E6 (200 × 140 mm)	 A475 700 A475 701		 0.90 1.00
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A475 640	A475 650	4.20

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Items with the Korean stamps

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Sheet of 16 stamps (8 stamps per design on one sheet)	A476 111	A476 511	5.00

Please note: The Korean stamps are valid for postage in Korea only. No consignments may be franked with these stamps in Switzerland. The stamps are not supplied with the subscription.

Korean first-day cancellation

Items with the stamps from both countries

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Cover			
First-day cover E6 with the stamps from both countries		A476 580	5.00
Folder/collection sheet			
Folder/collection sheet A5 with the stamps from both countries	A476 640	A476 650	4.80

Special regulations apply to cancellation orders. These can be found in "PhilaNews 8/2023" at **swisspost.ch/stamp-publications**.

Beechnuts

Whitebeam berries

Pine cone

Samara

Tree fruits

They're tree-mendous: the tree fruits featured on these large-format special stamps are drawn by hand and printed using steel engraving. The designs are the product of meticulous artistic work that provides insight into the diversity of native tree fruits.

Botanical illustrations have a long tradition. To this day, they are used most notably to disseminate knowledge or for decorative purposes. Their great strength: unlike photography, their subjects are composed with a view to depicting all important features clearly and creating a sharp likeness of three-dimensional structure at every depth. Steel engraving has a special historical significance, having been used since the invention of printing to disseminate knowledge of plant science. A subject in which botanical painter Vivanne Dubach is very well versed. A forest pathologist at Swiss Forest Protection, she specializes in informed presentation of Swiss forest trees and their diseases. The four designs originate in her work. The choice of designs is also rooted in a collaboration with WSL, the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research. The idea was to depict the diversity that can be found in Swiss forests.

Our tree species can be divided into two categories: the coniferous and the deciduous. The former accounts for about a quarter of all species and includes the Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) – an important forest tree that fares well in dry places. It carries its winged seeds in cones on its branches. The deciduous category is represented on the stamps by the following three trees: the Scots elm (*Ulmus glabra*), where the seed is in or under the middle of the winged fruit, the common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with its beechnuts and prickly cupule, and the whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), whose fruits are arranged in umbels and, in the old days, were dried and ground and mixed with bread flour.

Set on first-day cover C6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 2-colour + intaglio; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamps: 32.5×40 mm Sheet: 162×190 mm, 4 rows of 4 stamps
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼: 13¾
Design	Vivanne Dubach, Roggwil BE

Intaglio (steel engraving)

Intaglio printing – also called steel engraving – is one of the oldest printing techniques in the world. In the original process, the lines were manually engraved from a template into a metal plate using a graver; today, the steel engraving plate is usually produced digitally. In the past, steel engraving was mainly used to produce banknotes and stamps and to print illustrations. The technique is still used for banknotes today, as well as for high-quality business stationery and invitations. The great strength of steel engraving is without doubt its excellent detail reproduction of fine lines. The relief-like printed impression can be felt with the fingers: a tactile feature and sign of a high-quality print.

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Set	A477 150	A477 550	6.10
Set of blocks of four	A477 160	A477 560	24.40
Sheet of 16 stamps			
0.90 Beechnuts	A477 111	A477 511	14.40
1.10 Whitebeam berries	A477 112	A477 512	17.60
1.80 Pine cone	A477 113	A477 513	28.80
2.30 Samara	A477 114	A477 514	36.80
Covers			
Set on first-day cover C6		A477 580	7.00
Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A477 600	9.70
Block of four on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)		A477 630	28.00
Unstamped cover C6	A477 701		0.90
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A477 640	A477 650	6.90

With real hook and loop fastener!

Swiss inventions – Hook and loop fastener

Who invented it? In the 1940s, while out in the countryside, Vaud engineer George de Mestral became stuck to a plant and, inspired by this principle, went on to develop the hook and loop fastener. An invention that makes everyday life easier – even in space.

Sticking like a burr. George de Mestral found out first-hand where the expression came from: after a hunting trip, he found little green balls – known as burrs – stuck to his trousers and his dog's fur. The engineer turned to his microscope to figure out where the plant's adhesive property came from and made a discovery: the burrs had tiny elastic hooks. He made use of this principle to try to perfect a new type of textile fastener. After months of work, he had the solution: a ribbon with hooks and another facing it with loops – the hook and loop fastener.

In 1951, Mestral applied for patent protection, which he received three years later. Commercially speaking, however, his achievement blossomed only decades later, as the whole world watched a special event: when they landed on the Moon in 1969, there were hook and loop fasteners on the astronauts' suits and holding the iconic Omega Moon watches in place on their wrists.

For the subject of the miniature sheet, a somewhat more mundane but no less practical application was chosen: children's shoes, which are easy for little ones to put on and take off thanks to this invention. The source of inspiration from the natural world is shown on the right of the stamp, a schematic depiction of burdock.

The miniature sheet is the third part of a set showcasing Swiss inventions and comes with a special feature: a little piece of hook and loop fastener. Scr-tch, scr-tch!

By the way: the hook and loop technique helped Mestral achieve a second coup – the invention of the curler.

Swiss engineer George de Mestral invented the hook and loop fastening system. Archive photo. © Keystone

Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 4-colour + hook and loop fastener; Cartor Security Printers, Meaucé-La Loupe, France
Sizes	Stamp: 73×56 mm Miniature sheet: 105×70 mm Miniature sheet with a stamp
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm^2
Perforation	13:12¾
Design	Jürg Glauser, Bern

Maximum card

Picture postcard

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Miniature sheet	A473 315	A473 815	2.10
Covers			
Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6		A473 580	3.10
Unstamped cover C6 (162×114 mm) E6 (200×140 mm)	 A473 700 A473 701		 0.90 1.00
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A473 640	A473 650	2.90
Maximum card			
Unfranked A6 picture postcard with "Swiss inventions – Hook and loop fastener" miniature sheet affixed and cancelled on the front		A473 851	3.10
Picture postcard			
Unfranked A6 picture postcard "Swiss inventions – Hook and loop fastener"	A473 911		1.00

75 years Edition VFO

Celebrating printed graphics: Edition VFO (association for original prints) has been promoting graphic works for 75 years. Time for an anniversary stamp about a form of expression that has shaped part of Swiss art and cultural history.

Since 1948, this non-profit art association and publisher of prints, now Switzerland's largest edition publisher, has been committed to the diffusion of contemporary art at affordable prices. The goal is to promote traditional and modern printing techniques and studios. In addition to the exchange of ideas, the association offers artists from all over Switzerland ideas for an innovative and playful approach to usually complex printing processes. But the aim is not only to cultivate the art form, but also to convey it. Thanks to their affordable prices, the works are therefore accessible to a broad public. In the current anniversary year, the association is looking to show that printing is not a reproduction, but a form of expression in its own right, in the same way as painting or photography. The launch of the commemorative stamp is intended to highlight this issue.

The miniature sheet is the work of Rebekka Steiger. The 30-year-old chose a familiar subject: "Riders have been with me since I started working as an artist. They were one of the hallmarks of the first edition I developed in collaboration with the association. So it seemed fitting to me." In an effort to highlight the subject of print as an art form, it was important to her for the unmistakable traces of the printing process to be visible. She also left some of the printed paper in place around it, explaining: "For me, the irregular edges are part of it, because they give the images the playfulness and dynamism that are inherent in this printing technique (lithography)."

Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 7.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 7.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands
Sizes	Stamp: 66×55.1 mm Miniature sheet: 105×70 mm Miniature sheet with a stamp
Paper	White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²
Perforation	13¼:13½
Design	Rebekka Steiger, Zurich

Lithography workshop

On 14 October 2023, 10 × 2 people will be given the opportunity to take part in a free workshop at the tradition-rich Wolfensberger lithography studio in Zurich. The offer includes a complete production with master printer Thomi Wolfensberger, who will demonstrate the process of lithography. Participants will have the opportunity to design and follow a lithograph from start to finish. All participants will receive the print produced in the workshop to take home. Participants will be selected at random. Take part until 1 October 2023 at **swisspost.ch/stamps.**

© Steindruckerei Wolfensberger, Zurich and with the kind support of Edition VFO, Zurich

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Miniature sheet	A483 315	A483 815	1.10
Cover			
Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6		A483 580	2.10
Unstamped cover C6 (162 × 114 mm) E6 (200 × 140 mm)	 A483 700 A483 701		 0.90 1.00
Folder/collection sheet			
A5	A483 640	A483 650	1.90

J. R. R. Tolkien 1892–1973

2 September 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of J. R. R. Tolkien, the British author who had a pivotal influence on the fantasy genre thanks to his novels "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit". These special stamps were designed by well-known artist John Howe, who lives in Switzerland, and pay tribute to Tolkien's artistic heritage with four scenes from the iconic works.

Gentle hills and lush green dotted with little houses: the Shire, a region in Tolkien's fantasy world Middle-earth, is home to the hobbits. The design of the same name offers a glimpse of its idyllic surroundings from inside the house of Bilbo Baggins, one of the main protagonists. It seems that Gandalf, a wise wizard who fights against evil, is also on a visit to The Shire. Another stamp is dedicated to the dragon Smaug, one of the dark forces of these tales. The fourth design depicts the Argonath, the Pillars of the Kings marking the northern border to the Kingdom of Gondor.

Tolkien's letters reveal Switzerland to be one source of inspiration for his stories: at the age of 19, he hiked through the Bernese Oberland and Valais – an adventure that helped to influence his works. The scenes depicted on the stamps are from the hand of John Howe, one of the most important illustrators of Tolkien's works.

The Argonath

Gandalf

The Shire

Smaug

Maximum card set

Important note

The "J. R. R. Tolkien 1892–1973" special stamps are not part of the official stamp issuing programme and are not included in subscriptions. They will be sent along with Issue 3 from 31 August 2023. Available for order at postshop.ch or in all branches from 2 September 2023. The stamp sheets are also available online, via order form or in the six branches with stamp counters as a special edition with a gold postmark – as are the maximum cards.

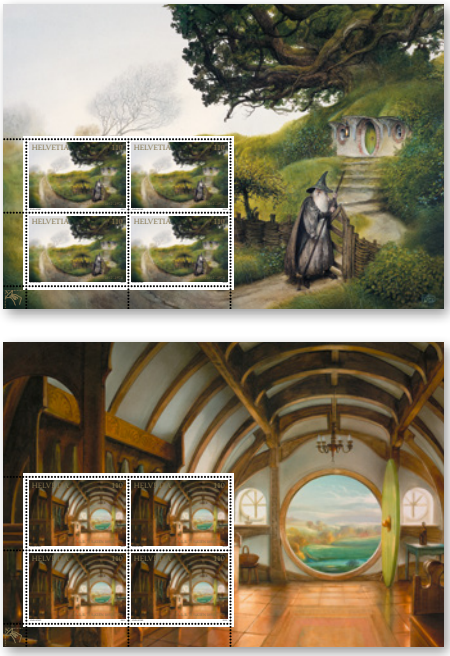
About the designer John Howe

Canadian illustrator John Howe was the lead concept artist during production of "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit", and is also a contributor to the current series "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power". Howe lives in Switzerland with his wife Fataneh, also an artist.

Portrait of John Howe
©Lucas Vuitel

Event in honor of J. R. R. Tolkien

To mark the stamp issue, a day full of surprises awaits you at the Sihlpost building in Zurich on 2 September 2023! Swiss Post is organizing an event for collectors, stamp enthusiasts and fans of J. R. R. Tolkien. The detailed programme is available at **swisspost.ch/stamps**.



4 special sheets of 4 stamps each

Available for order at postshop.ch or branches with a stamp counter.

Product	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Stamps			
Special sheet of 4 stamps			
1.10 The Argonath	A507 411	A507 431	4.40
1.10 The Shire	A507 412	A507 432	4.40
1.10 Smaug	A507 413	A507 433	4.40
1.10 Gandalf	A507 414	A507 434	4.40
These products are not supplied with the subscription.			
Maximum cards			
Set of 4 unfranked A6 picture postcards, with "J. R. R. Tolkien 1892–1973" special stampsaffixed and cancelled on the front.		A507 441	8.40
These products are not supplied with the subscription.			

Technical information	
Sales	Philately: from 31.8.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last Branches: from 2.9.2023 to 30.9.2024 or while stocks last
Validity	Unlimited from 2.9.2023
Printing	Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein
Sizes	Stamps: Smaug and The Argonath: 32.6×45.3 mm The Shire and Gandalf: 45.3×32.6 mm Sheets: Smaug and The Argonath: 135×195 mm The Shire and Gandalf: 195×135 mm 2 rows of 2 stamps
Paper	White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²
Perforation	13¼: 13½
Design	John Howe, Neuchâtel

Have fun collecting with Phila and Franco

Chestnuts, coffee cream lids or stamps – collectors have their own very different interests. In the current issue, Phila and Franco show what they like to focus on and how to find your own interests as a collector.

Fresh supplies for collectors: the current issue includes seven stamps valid for postage – one of which is a cancelled stamp. Phila and Franco have their magnifying glasses and tweezers at the ready, looking to add to their collections. Franco is especially happy with the tree fruit designs, the perfect fit for what he enjoys collecting. Phila is an animal fan, so she prefers to focus on stamps featuring cats. The two reveal what it takes to collect stamps and how enthusiasts can find their personal favourite subject.

In the section on writing and postal service knowledge, Phila and Franco take a little journey back in time, discovering how people used to write with pen and ink. On an outing over the Gotthard Pass in a yellow horse-drawn mail coach, they also learn how mail got from A to B 200 years ago. As well as puzzles, a comic strip and a delicious apple recipe, there are once again three postcards to colour in.

The stamp set for children is available at postshop.ch and all Swiss Post branches as a single issue for 12 francs or at a discounted rate on subscription at **swisspost.ch/stamp-subscriptions**.

Contains seven stamps valid for postage and one cancelled stamp.

Stamp set for children 3/2023

Technical information	
Length	20 pages
Contents	Seven stamps valid for postage, one cancelled stamp, three postcards to colour in
Topics	Stamp collecting, puzzles, recipe, writing, comic, postal service knowledge, arts and crafts
Face values included	CHF 9.40
Publication	Four times a year
Suitable for	Girls and boys between the ages of seven and ten
Subscription	swisspost.ch/stamp-subscriptions or +41 848 66 55 44

Product	Item no.	Price in CHF
Stamp set for children		
German	A480 901	12.00
French	A480 902	12.00
Italian	A480 903	12.00
Phila & Franco		
Safari sticker sheet Contains 13 stickers	A445 901	2.50
Safari stationery folder Contains 10 sheets of paper and envelopes	A446 902	12.00

Colourful stamps

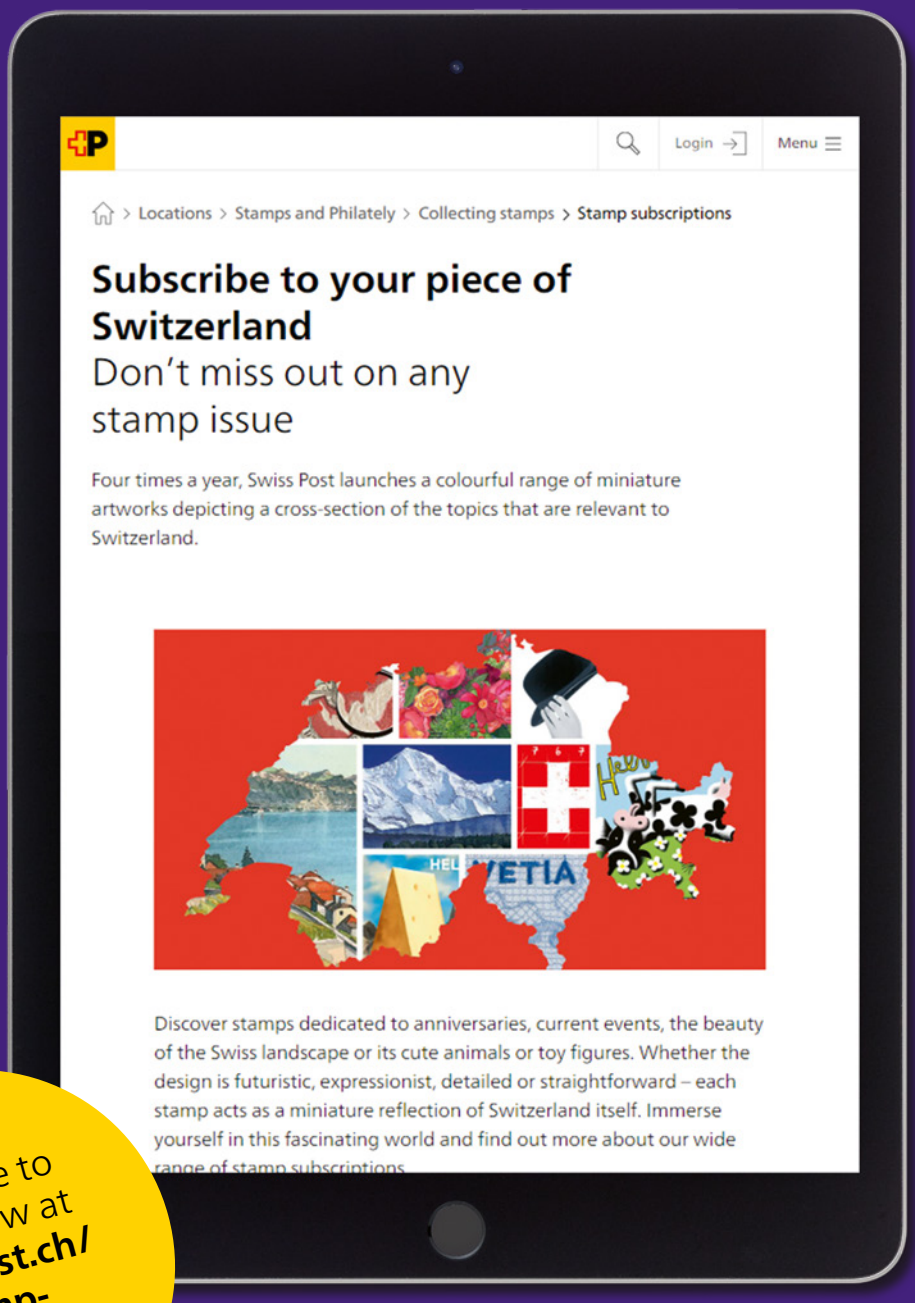
Issue set with single stamps 3/2023

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 3/2023

Annual and special products	Mint	Cancelled	Price in CHF
Issue set with single stamps 3/2023			
The single stamps and sets in the 3/2023 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.	A482 150	A482 550	19.30
Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 3/2023			
The first-day covers with single stamps and sets in the 3/2023 issue are combined in one free cover.		A482 580	30.90
2022 year book			
Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book presents all Swiss stamps and first-day cancellations for 2022, along with an exclusive black print, on over 100 pages in four languages (de/fr/it/en).	A433 830	A433 831	79.00
2022 year set			
All Swiss stamps for 2022, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve.	A434 320	A434 820	70.65
2022 year set with first-day covers (FDC)			
All first-day covers in 2022 – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the respective first-day cancellations.		A434 530	110.30

2024 stamp catalogue	Item no.	Price in CHF
Zumstein		
Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva 2024, German/French	A481 725	35.00
Swiss stamp catalogue		
Switzerland 2024 German/French	A481 787	27.00
The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.		

Stamp subscriptions
Don’t miss out on any new stamps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